

the B. O. U., he will find the name *Cyanecula wolft* used for the White-spotted Bluethroat. The same name has been employed in Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' Harting's 'Handbook,' and by many other writers, and is believed to be the first name applicable to this form of the Bluethroat. We regret that the name "*leucocyanus*" was left unaltered on p. 491, and that the subspecific term "*purpurascens*" was omitted in the name of the Starling (p. 498).—EDD.]

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SIRS,—The egg figured by Mr. Dresser in 'The Ibis' (above, pl. x. fig. 3) differs widely from those recently sent to Europe from the Lob Noor by Herr W. Röchbeil, together with skins of *Rhopophilus albosuperciliaris*. A clutch of four eggs in my possession are not unlike those of *Sylvia curruca*, being white, irregularly blotched and streaked with light and darker ochreous brown, and with a few underlying leaden-grey spots, chiefly at the big end. In shape they are a short ovate and average (4 eggs) 14·87 × 12·52 mm.

I am, Sirs,

Yours &c.,

Clifton Vicarage,  
Ashburne, Derbyshire.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

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SIRS,—During the early part of June three Sand-Grouse (*Syrhaptus paradoxus*) were observed in a cornfield in the eastern portion of Cleveland. A few days afterwards one was picked up dead, and I have had an opportunity of examining this specimen, which is a male in excellent plumage. The other two birds were seen at intervals until mid-June, when they both disappeared.

I am, Sirs,

Yours &c.,

Seafield, Redcar,  
1st Aug., 1908.

T. H. NELSON.

[For other recent occurrences of this bird in England, see 'British Birds,' vol. ii. p. 98; and as to its appearance in

Russia, Roumania, Hungary, Austria, Prussia, and Heligoland, consult Orn. Monatschr. xxxiii. no. 7, and Orn. Jahrb. xix. 3 & 4, p. 146.—EDD.]

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*Ornithological Works in progress.*—We have much pleasure in announcing that our fellow-member, Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, is preparing a new work on the Birds of Australia. Since Gould's 'Handbook' was published in 1865, great progress has been made in our knowledge of the subject, thanks to the labours of many local ornithologists, Ramsay, North, Campbell, and the Western Australian collectors, the results of whose labours have been chronicled in the 'Emu.'

Mr. Mathews, as a native of Australia, appeals to all the ornithologists of that country to aid him in making his work as perfect as possible. Every contribution will be fully acknowledged, and while the Author hopes that he can do justice to his subject, thanks to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe and Mr. Walter Rothschild, who have promised him all facilities of study at the British Museum and at the Tring Museum respectively, he feels that it is on the support of his countrymen that the success of his venture depends. We therefore add our appeal to the Australian ornithologists to help Mr. Mathews in the great task that he has undertaken.

Another bird-book recently announced by Mr. R. H. Porter is a volume on 'Indian Ducks and their Allies,' which is being prepared by Mr. E. C. Stuart-Baker, one of our most active writers on the Birds of the Oriental Region. It will form a handsome volume of over 300 pages of text, illustrated by thirty coloured chromolithographic plates, prepared under the supervision of Mr. Grönvold.

A third work in preparation, which will be of special interest to students of European Birds, is Colonel Willoughby Verner's 'Life among the Wild Birds of Spain,' which will be shortly issued by Messrs. John Bale, Sons, & Danielsson. Col. Verner's numerous and exciting adventures in search of the birds of Southern Spain and their nests and eggs will be fully told in this volume, which will be profusely

illustrated by 25 plates and over 150 text-figures, taken from photographs and pen-and-ink sketches of the author, who is well known as an accomplished draughtsman and interesting writer.

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*New Paradise-Birds in the Zoological Society's Gardens.*— Since we wrote last on this subject (above, p. 549), another large consignment of live Paradise-Birds has been received at the Regent's Park (on July 3rd). It contains 7 Raggi's Bird-of-Paradise (*Paradisea raggiana*), 7 Lawes's Bird-of-Paradise (*Parotia lawesii*), 8 Hunstein's Bird-of-Paradise (*Diphyllodes hunsteini*), 4 Manucodes (*Phonygama purpureo-violacea* and *P. chalybeata*), 1 New-Guinea Rifle-bird (*Ptilorhis intercedens*), 3 Black-headed Cat-birds (*Ælurædus melanocephalus*), and 2 Subalar Bower-birds (*Amblyornis subalaris*).

This splendid series was collected in British New Guinea, and was brought home by Mr. C. B. Horsbrugh for the Society in co-operation with Sir William Ingram, who is well known for his success in keeping these magnificent birds in captivity (see 'Ibis,' 1907, p. 225).

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*The Mediterranean Shearwaters.*— In 'Avicula' (xii. fasc. 121-2, 1908), Count Salvadori has recently written a note on the Mediterranean Shearwaters, of which he has kindly sent us a copy. The chief point raised is whether the smaller ordinary species usually called *Puffinus yelkouan* is different from *P. anglorum* of Northern Europe. Dr. Giglioli is strongly of opinion that the two forms are identical. But Count Salvadori regards them as distinct species, in which he is supported by Mr. Godman in his new work on the Petrels\*. Count Salvadori also discusses the difficult question of the status of *Puffinus obscurus* (Gm.).

\* Cf. 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 527.